



ARIZONA REGISTRAR of CONTRACTORS

Janice K. Brewer, Governor

William A. Mundell, Director

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Media Advisory

Rickey Gene Fite – Pled guilty to contracting without a license after investigation by the Arizona Registrar of Contractors

In July 2012, Rickey Gene Fite pled guilty in the Flagstaff Justice Court to contracting without a license, a class 1 misdemeanor. The sentence included:

- \$15,000 in restitution,
- \$1,023 in fines, and
- 3 years probation.

The Coconino County Attorney's Office prosecuted Fite after an investigation and referral from the Arizona Registrar of Contractors for contracting without a license. As is common for construction scams, Fite solicited work door-to-door offering a "special deal" with left over materials from a prior job. Unfortunately for the victim, the work performed failed to meet minimum construction standards.

"Protecting the people of Arizona from illegal contracting is our highest priority", said William Mundell, Director of the Arizona Registrar of Contractors.

Homeowners can protect themselves by:

- Consulting the Arizona Registrar of Contractors, www.azroc.gov, to ensure the contractor is licensed.
- Asking for written estimates from at least three contractors.
- Requesting a list of references, and checking them before agreeing to hire anyone.
- Making sure the scope of the project, the price, the responsibility to obtain building permits, and any other relevant terms are spelled out in a written contract.
- Avoiding contractors who require large upfront payments.
- Never making a hurried decision. No reputable contractor will pressure you into a quick hiring decision.

Other tips about hiring qualified contractors can be found at www.azroc.gov.

For more information, or to request an interview with Director Mundell, contact Tyler Palmer, Public Information Officer of the Arizona Registrar of Contractors at (602) 771-6710.

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